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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL RIGHTS
Twenty-seventh session
Geneva, 12-30 November 2001

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17, will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 12 to 30 November 2001. The first meeting will be convened on Monday, 12 November 2001, at 10 a.m.

2. The attached provisional agenda and annotations for the twenty-seventh session of the Committee have been prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Committee.

3. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 6 containing the list of reports that will be before the Committee at its twenty-seventh session.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Organization of work.

3. Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

4. Follow-up to the consideration of reports under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

5. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies.

6. Consideration of reports:

   (a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant;

   (b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant.

7. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant.

8. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies.

9. Adoption of the report.

10. Miscellaneous matters.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 5 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda, except for the election of its officers when required under rule 14. In accordance with rule 6 the Committee, during a session, may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, add, delete or defer items.

2. Organization of work

In accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, at the beginning of each session, the Committee shall consider appropriate organizational matters, including the schedule of its meetings. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to the draft programme of work for the session, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee and in accordance with established practice (E/C.12/2001/L.3).

3. Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Committee decided at its fourteenth session (28 April-17 May 1996) that as from its fifteenth session its discussions relating to the implementation of the Covenant (NGO hearings, methods of work, consideration and adoption of general comments, etc.) would be conducted under this agenda item. The Committee decided that its next day of general discussion, during its twenty-eighth session, will be devoted to the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights (article 3 of the Covenant). At its twenty-seventh session, under this agenda item, the Committee, will discuss follow-up to its day of general discussion on article 15 (1) (e). It will also hold a joint meeting with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on follow-up to the Committee's day of general discussion on the right to education and follow-up to the World Education Forum held in Dakar in April 2000. It will further discuss follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as follow-up to the 1996 round table on "Human Rights Approaches to Women's Health with a Focus on Reproductive and Sexual Heath and Rights" ("Glen Cove + 5") organized by the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat.

4. Follow-up to the consideration of reports under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

At its fourteenth session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, recognizing the importance of periodically reviewing the implementation by States parties of its suggestions and recommendations requested the Secretariat to submit to it, as from the fifteenth session, a document indicating all cases where a follow-up had been suggested by the Committee. In this connection, the attention of the members of the Committee is drawn to document E/C.12/2001/3 which contains the requested information.

5. Relations with United Nations organs and other treaty bodies

The Committee decided at its sixth session to nominate individual members to follow the work of each of the other treaty bodies. Such members are to follow as closely as possible the work of the relevant committees, to liase where possible with members of these committees and to present an oral report on developments of both a procedural and substantive nature in their work which appeared to be of specific relevance to the work of the Committee (E/1992/23, paras. 371-373).

6. Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 61, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall normally consider the reports submitted by States parties under article 16 of the Covenant in the order in which they have been received by the Secretary-General. Representatives of the reporting States are entitled to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined; such representatives should be able to make statements on the reports submitted by their Governments and reply to questions which may be put to them by the members of the Committee.

At its twenty-sixth (extraordinary) session, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to schedule six reports from six States parties for consideration at its twenty-seventh session.

In accordance with rule 62, paragraph 2, of the Committee's rules of procedure, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 23 May 2001, informed the States parties concerned of the opening date and duration of the twenty-seventh session of the Committee, as well as of the dates at which their respective reports will be examined and has invited them to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee.

As at 5 September 2001, the reports listed below had been received by the Secretary-General. The reports of the States parties which are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-seventh session are identified by an asterisk. The tentative timetable for consideration of those reports, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, is contained in document E/C.12/2001/L.3.

Initial reports

Croatia*	E/1990/5/Add.46
Czech Republic	E/1990/5/Add.47
Benin	E/1990/5/Add.48
Slovakia	E/1990/5/Add.49
Solomon Islands	E/1990/5/Add.50
Estonia	E/1990/5/Add 51
Republic of Moldova	E/1990/5/Add.52
Brazil	E/1990/5/Add.53

Second periodic reports

Algeria*	E/1990/6/Add.26
France*	E/1990/6/Add.27
Jamaica*	E/1990/6/Add.28
Ireland	E/1990/6/Add.29
Trinidad and Tobago	E/1990/6/Add.30
Georgia	E/1990/6/Add.31
Israel	E/1990/6/Add.32

Third periodic reports

Luxembourg	E/1994/104/Add.24

Fourth periodic reports

Sweden*	E/C.12/4/Add.4
Colombia*	E/C.12/4/Add.6
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	E/C.12/4/Add.5, Add.7 and Add.8
Poland	E/C.12/4/Add.9

(b) Reports submitted by specialized agencies in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 67 of its rules of procedure, the Committee is entrusted with the task of considering the reports submitted by specialized agencies pursuant to article 18 of the Covenant.

In accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the specialized agencies concerned may make statements on matters falling within the scope of the activities of their respective organization in the course of the discussion by the Committee of the report of each State party to the Covenant. The representatives of the States parties presenting reports to the Committee shall be free to respond to, or take into account, the statements made by the specialized agencies. The Secretary-General has invited the following specialized agencies,

United Nations organs and financial institutions to send representatives to attend the meetings of the Committee: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Any report which may be received from the specialized agencies under article 18 of the Covenant will be made available to the Committee in due course.

7. Submission of reports by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

In accordance with rule 59, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure, the Committee shall at each session consider the status of submission of reports under article 16 of the Covenant and may make appropriate recommendations to the Council, including recommendations to the effect that the Secretary-General should send reminders to States parties from which reports have not been received.

The Committee will have before it under this item the following document:

A note by the Secretary-General on the States parties to the Covenant and the Status of submission of reports (E/C.12/12/2001/14).

8. Formulation of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant and by the specialized agencies

Pursuant to rule 64 of its rules of procedure, the Committee may wish to make suggestions and recommendations of a general nature on the basis of its consideration of reports submitted by States parties and the reports submitted by specialized agencies, in order to assist the Council to fulfil, in particular, its responsibilities under articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant. The Committee may also wish to make suggestions for consideration by the Council with reference to articles 19, 22 and 23 of the Covenant.

9. Adoption of the report

The Committee will adopt the report on its twenty-fifty (23 April-11 May 2001), twenty sixth (extraordinary) (13-31 August 2001) and twenty-seventh sessions (12-30 November 2001) to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

10. Miscellaneous matters

At its twenty-first session (1999), the Committee decided to inscribe on its agenda a standing item "Miscellaneous matters", under which it may consider any issue falling outside the scope of other standing agenda items.